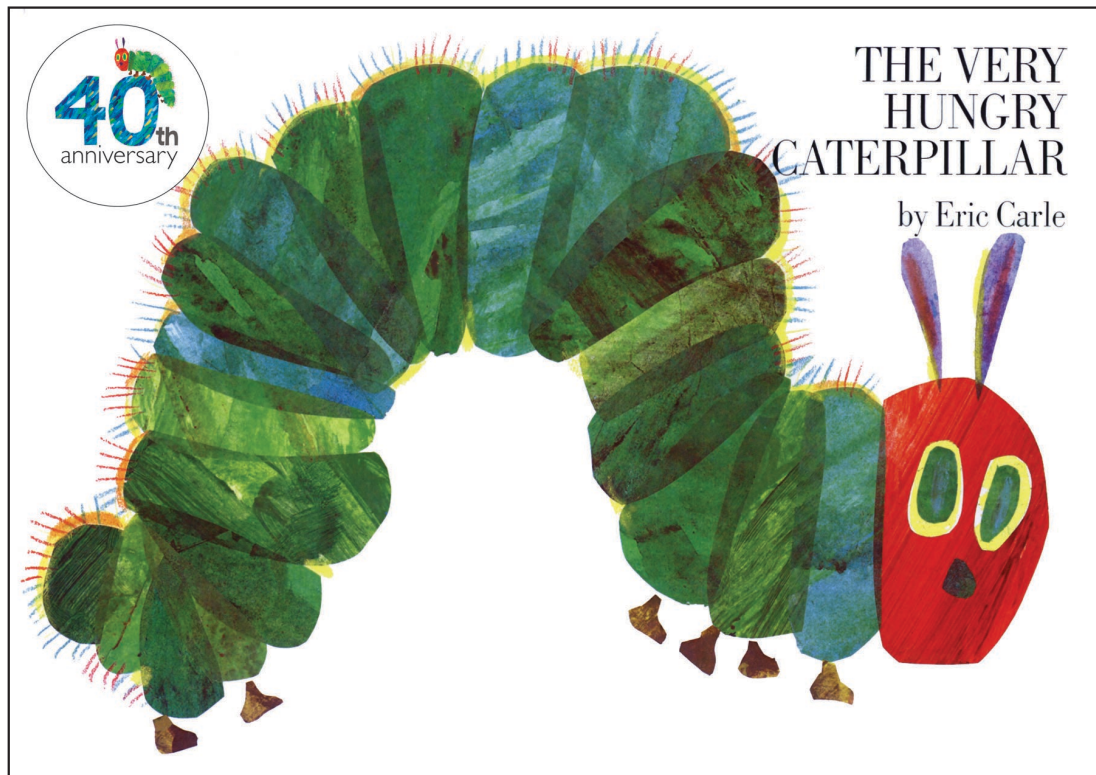


# The Very Hungry Caterpillar Activity Booklet

March 20<sup>th</sup> is  
The Very Hungry  
Caterpillar Day!



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[www.Eric-Carle.com](http://www.Eric-Carle.com)

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# Welcome to a *Very* celebratory activity kit!

Dear Educator,

**Join the millions of people honoring Eric Carle's classic book and celebrate The Very Hungry Caterpillar Day on March 20th!**

Did you know that *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* has sold 29 million copies worldwide since 1969, and sells one copy every 30 seconds? With simple text and gorgeous illustrations, it's no wonder that this book is beloved by children and adults alike. As a story about science and math, or just an enjoyable read-aloud, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is perfect in classrooms and libraries. March 20th is also the first day of spring, making your celebration an ideal way to kick off the new season!

Inside this kit you'll find:

- a commemorative 40th Anniversary poster, featuring classroom activities on the back
- temporary tattoos
- a booklet with cross-curricular lesson plans, booklist, arts and crafts projects such as Make Your Own Mobile, and more!

All of these items are easily reproducible so you can make copies for students, colleagues, or to keep for future years.

Having a celebration of your own? We'd love to hear about it!

Please email us at [schoolandlibrary@us.penguinroup.com](mailto:schoolandlibrary@us.penguinroup.com) to share your Very Hungry Caterpillar Day ideas and plans.

Enjoy!

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# Classroom Lesson Plans and Activities

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* lends itself to a variety of subjects and lessons. Use the following suggestions to incorporate Eric Carle's beloved classic into all areas of the curriculum as you get ready to celebrate The Very Hungry Caterpillar Day on March 20th.

- **Guided Reading:** Challenge students to think critically while reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* aloud. Before opening the book, ask them to look at the cover and make some predictions. What do they think the story is about? What do they already know about caterpillars? Read pages one through three to students and then stop, covering up page four. What do the students predict now? What types of food might the caterpillar be looking for? Begin counting through the days and food items the caterpillar eats, stopping after the four strawberries. Have students predict what the caterpillar might eat next. Have they noticed the caterpillar's favorite food group or picked up on the number pattern? Continue reading, and stop again after the caterpillar eats only one green leaf, making sure not to turn the page. Ask students to predict what the caterpillar looks like after eating all that food! After the caterpillar goes into his cocoon, stop again. What happens while the caterpillar is in the cocoon?

After finishing the story, ask students to think about what would happen next if the book continued. What adventures might the butterfly encounter? Would he still be hungry? If so, what would he eat?

- **Science:** Discuss the concept of metamorphosis with your students. Focus on defining unfamiliar vocabulary. Explain what a cocoon is, what caterpillars and butterflies actually eat, and which species live in your area.

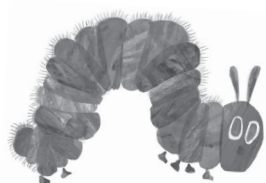
- **Math:** Practice counting with *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*! Complete the counting exercise on the back of the poster. Then return to the book and reread the section where the caterpillar eats an increased number of fruits each day. After the five oranges, make believe the caterpillar kept eating in sequence and go around the room, giving each student the chance to call out the next number and what type of food the caterpillar might eat (for example: six bananas, seven cookies, etc.). See how high your class can count!

- **Thinking Exercises:** Encourage students to think critically while still having fun. Ask them to complete the remaining four activities on the back of the poster to see how they follow directions and pay attention to details.

- **Language Arts:** Practice adjectives by creating nametags for students that say "My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am VERY \_\_\_\_\_." Expand on this activity by then asking students to fill in the blank adjective with 1) an adjective that begins with the same letter as their first or last name, 2) an adjective that has more than four letters, and more!

- **Spelling:** Ask the students to draw their own caterpillar, with one circle for the head and 26 circles for the caterpillar's very long body! They should then decorate and cut out the caterpillar head. Next, cut out the circles of his body individually, writing one letter of the alphabet in each circle so that each student has a full alphabet in front of them. Then, give the students a word and encourage them to "build" the caterpillar's body by placing the lettered circles in the correct order to spell the word. Try words that pertain to the character, such as **inch**, **fruit**, and **hungry**. Finish the exercise by asking students to glue together the caterpillar body that spells out their own name, using additional circles to write in any repeating letters. This caterpillar can serve as the students' name tags or place cards for your Very Hungry Caterpillar party.

- **Independent Reading:** Fill your classroom library with more of the books on the back cover of this booklet. Encourage students to read as many as possible on their own. Take a vote to see which three Eric Carle books your students prefer, then read them aloud during your Very Hungry Caterpillar Day celebration.

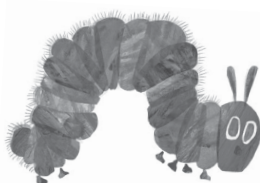


# The Very Hungry Caterpillar Day

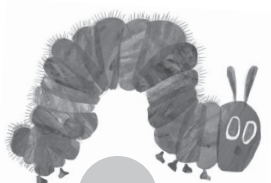
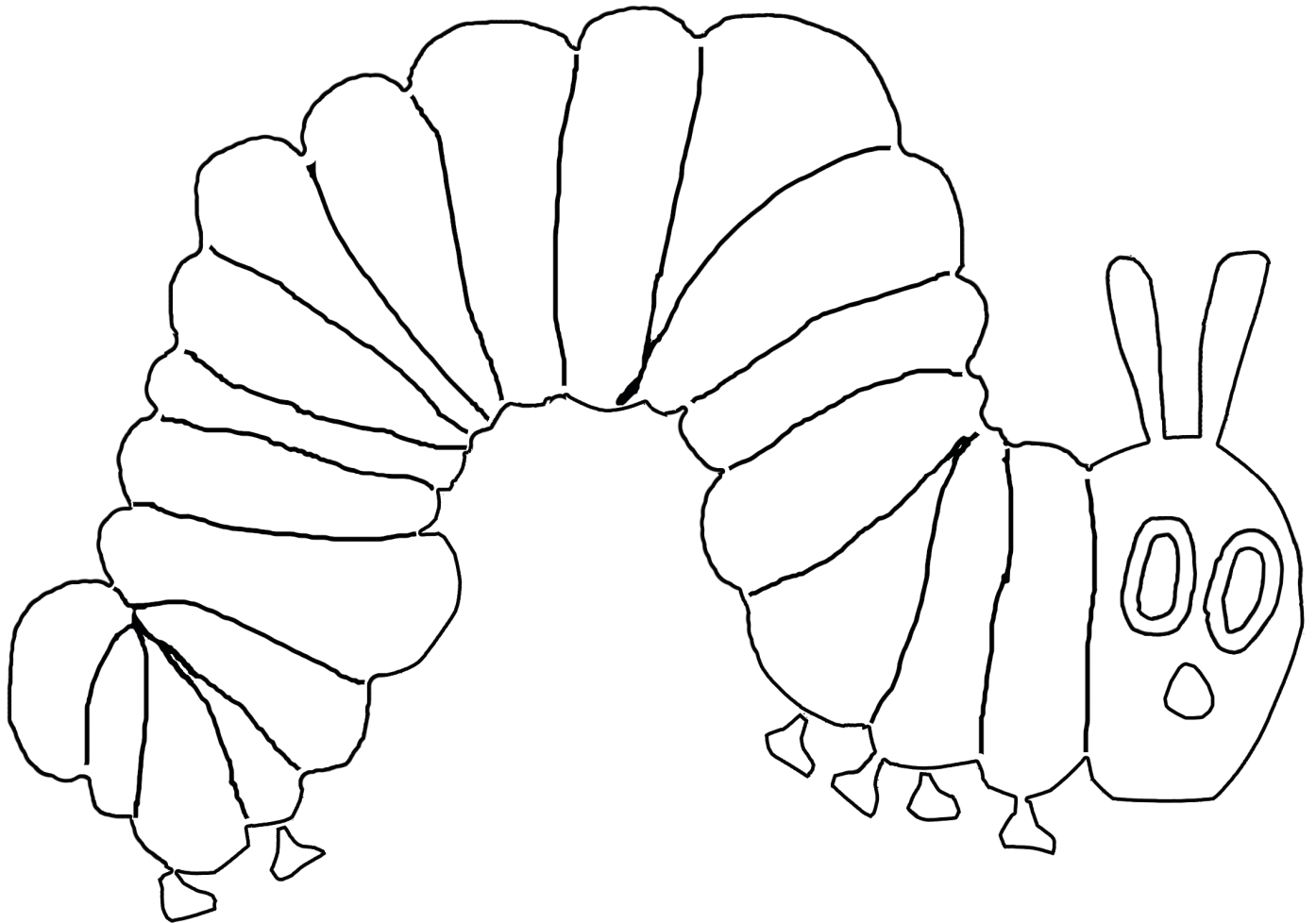
## Projects and Party Activities

Try the following for some caterpillar-related fun, perfect for an arts and crafts project leading up to The Very Hungry Caterpillar Day or as an activity during your classroom party.

- **Party Invitation:** Create a flyer or a card that provides all the necessary information about your party's date, time, location, and any RSVP information. Depending on the size of your party, students can either make individual invitations and swap with other classmates or they can make invitations for guests outside the classroom, such as parents, other teachers, or your school's principal. Finally, create a large poster with the necessary information to hang in your classroom so everyone remembers your very special celebration!
- **Make Your Own Mobile:** Cut out the mobile parts on pages 6 and 7 of this booklet and paste them onto thick cardstock or cardboard. Remember to make two copies of every item so your mobile looks the same from both sides. Students can also add their own creations. Punch holes in the designs where the circles indicate and use string to tie the hanging parts to the larger caterpillar piece. Depending on your classroom, either attach the topmost portion of the mobile to a hanger or S hook and hang from a ceiling board, or tie thick string into the hole and tape the string to your ceiling.
- **Create Your Own Antennae:** Have students make their own antennae! Twist two pipe cleaners together to make a headband that fits each individual student. Next, twist pipe cleaners into coils so they stand straight up when affixed to the headband base. Finally, glue pom poms and any other light, decorative materials to the tops of the coils.
- **Design Your Own Caterpillar:** Photocopy the caterpillar on page 5 of this booklet so there is a caterpillar for each student. Explain the collage art of Eric Carle and ask students to decorate their caterpillars in his style, using cut-up newspapers, magazines, or old photographs to create a caterpillar that represents themselves. Hang the caterpillars around your classroom so students can learn about their fellow classmates.
- **Wish the Caterpillar a Very Happy Anniversary:** Have students create Happy Anniversary cards for Eric Carle and the Very Hungry Caterpillar. Provide students with the materials they'll need to create their cards and encourage them to be creative! Ask them to write a special message to Eric Carle, telling him about themselves, their Very Hungry Caterpillar Day celebration, why they like his books, etc. **Be sure to mail your cards to us at Penguin Group (USA), Attn: Eric Carle Anniversary, 345 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014 so we can send them on!**
- **Eat like the Very Hungry Caterpillar:** Not only does the caterpillar eat A LOT, but he eats many different things! For your party, invite students to bring in snacks like the ones the caterpillar eats in the book. Fruits, cupcakes, and candy make great party treats and ice cream will be a wonderful way to kick off spring's warm weather. Students can also bring in any other snacks they like to eat when they are very hungry or any of the ideas they called out during the math exercise on the previous page.

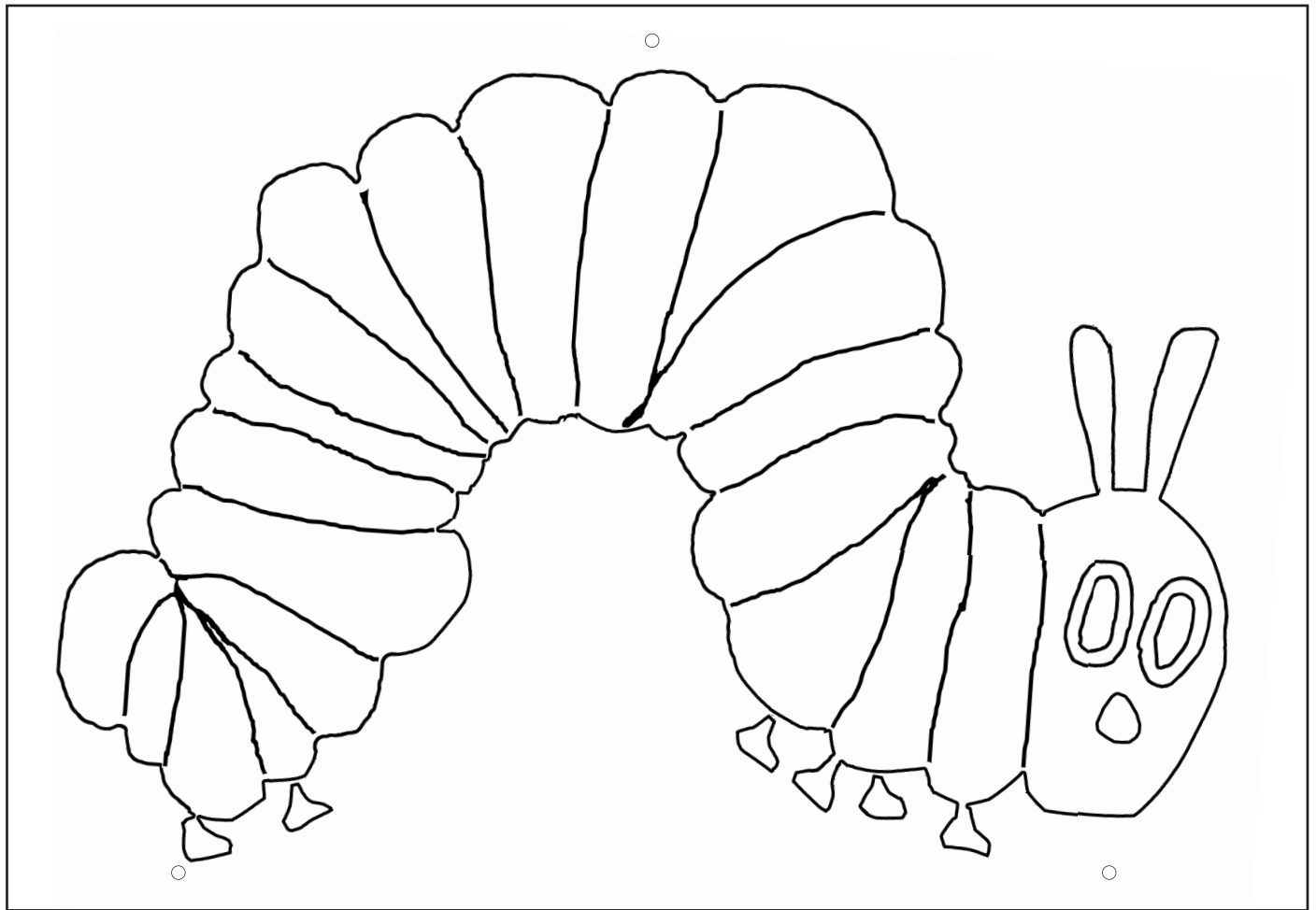


# Design Your Own Caterpillar



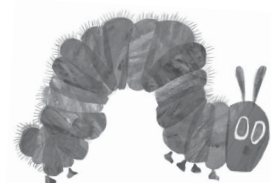


# Make Your Own Mobile

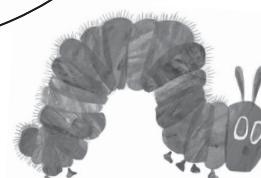
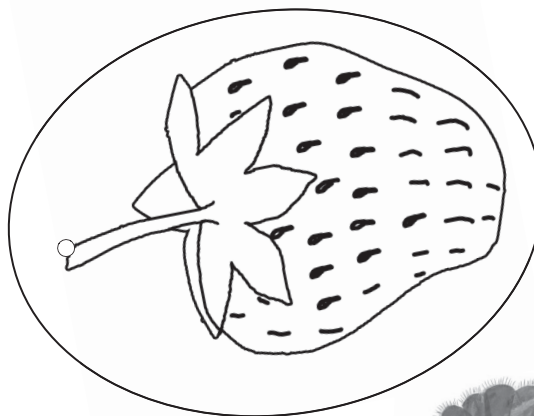
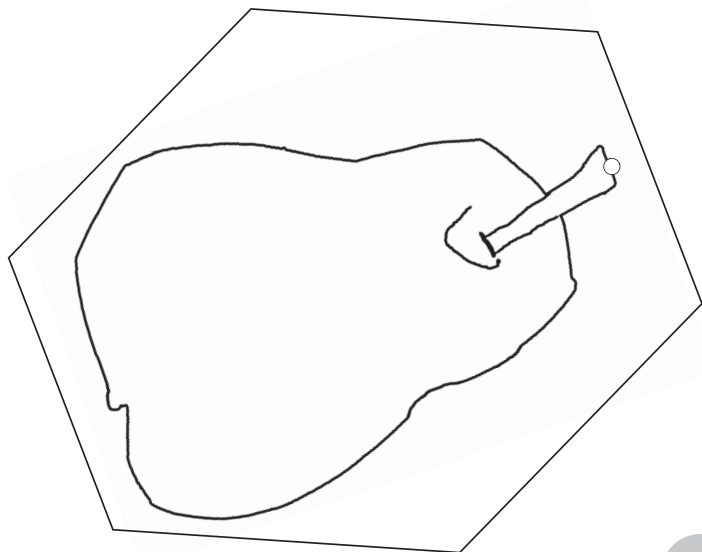
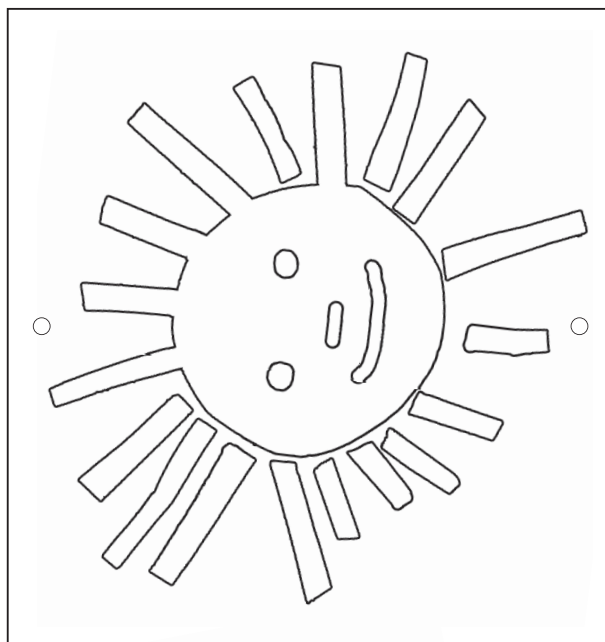
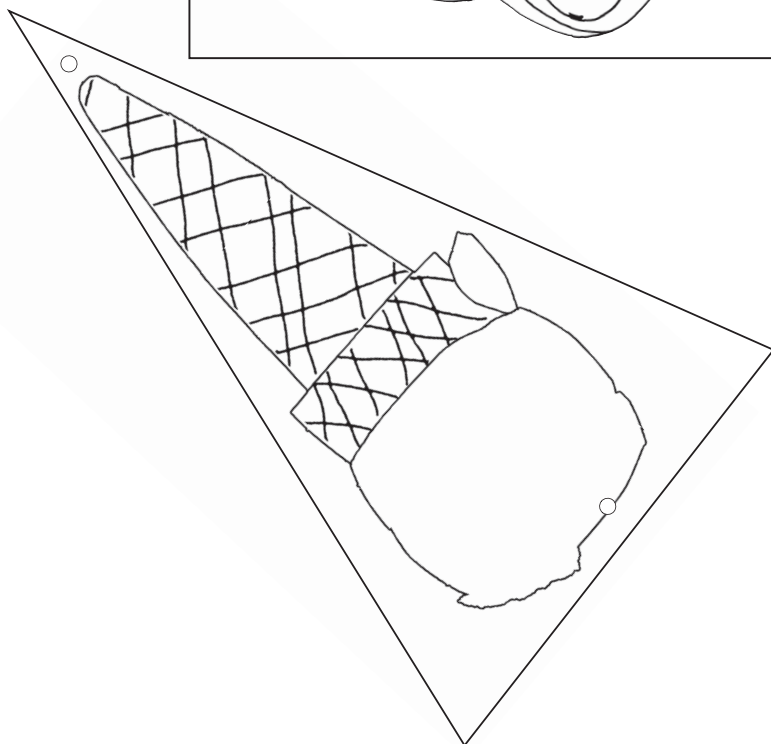
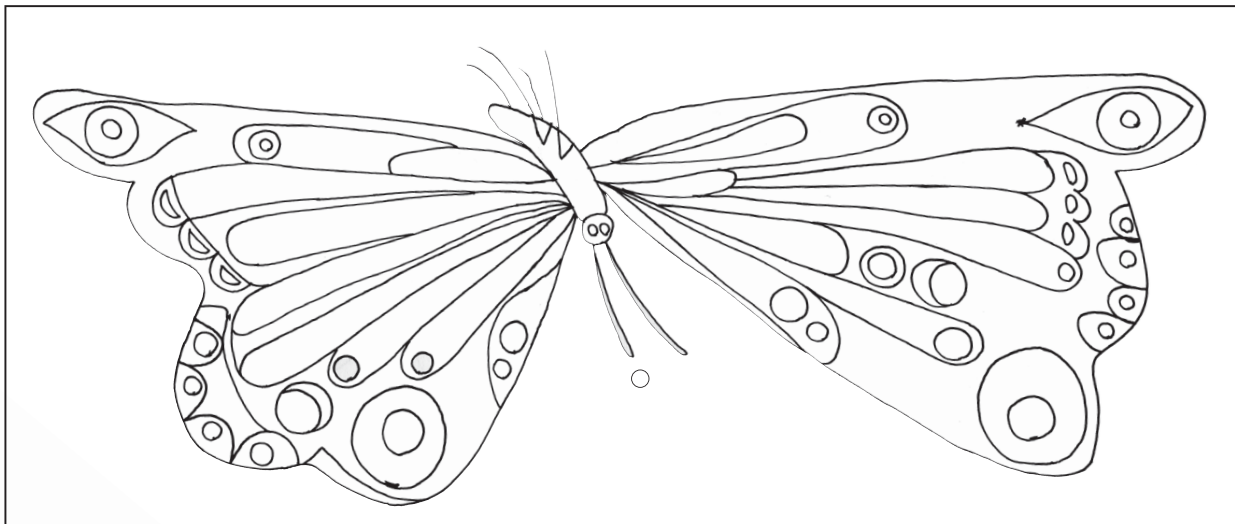


## The Very Hungry Caterpillar By Eric Carle

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# Make Your Own Mobile



# Be Sure Your Shelves Are Very Full Of Eric Carle Titles!

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